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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,346	07/23/2003	James Francis Lockridge	DN2003125	8596
27280	7590	02/09/2006	EXAMINER	
THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 823 1144 EAST MARKET STREET AKRON, OH 44316-0001			AGRAWAL, CHRISTOPHER K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3726	

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/625,346

Applicant(s)

LOCKRIDGE ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher K. Agrawal

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12-9-05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/23/03; 12/06/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group III, Claims 9-12 in the reply filed on 12/9/05 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 1-8 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12/9/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edler (U.S. Patent No. 3,738,893).
5. Edler teaches a tire handling and tread belt manipulator mechanism comprising a pair of movable manipulator arms (**see arms extending from 21**), a pair of tire grippers attached to the ends of the manipulator arms (**see L-shaped portions near lead line 17**), a pair of tread belt support arms **18**, one being attached above the tire grippers on

each manipulator arm, and a hydraulic means to move the manipulator arms (**Col. 2 lines 57-60; Col. 3 lines 49-51**).

6. Note that examiner interprets carrier **17** of Edler to teach both a pair of movable manipulator arms and a pair of tire grippers attached to the ends thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edler (U.S. Patent No. 3,738,893).

9. *Claim 10:* Edler teaches the apparatus of claim 9 as described above but does not teach the apparatus wherein a pair of tread belt end blocks is attached to the end of the tread belt support arm.

10. Edler teaches an apparatus wherein tread belt end blocks are attached to either end of tread belt support arms **8** for the purpose of selectively manipulating vertical translation of the tread belt.

11. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have incorporated the tread belt end blocks of tread belt support arms **8** with the tread belt support arms **18** for the purpose of selectively manipulating vertical translation of the tread belt.

12. Claim 11: Edler teaches the apparatus of claim 10 as modified above. Edler also teaches the apparatus wherein at least two protruding rods or blocks **47, 48, 55** spaced on each support arm.

13. Claim 12: Edler teaches the apparatus of claim 9 as modified above. Edler also teaches the apparatus wherein each tread belt support arm has one or more telescoping slidable extension sections (**Col. 4 lines 22-30**).

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 3,945,866 teaches a tire building apparatus for large tires.

U.S. Patent No. 4,314,597 teaches a tire mounting and demounting apparatus and method.

U.S. Patent No. 6,521,071 teaches a tread application apparatus with automated tread centering feature.

U.S. Patent No. 4,036,677 teaches a machine for treating worn out pneumatic tires and for applying a pre-molded tread ring.

U.S. Patent No. 4,051,966 teaches a tire manipulating apparatus.


15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher K. Agrawal whose telephone number is (571) 272-3578. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8AM-4:30PM.

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16. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Jimenez can be reached on (571)272-4530. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

17. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CKA


MARC JIMENEZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
2-1-06